

1374
THE

K WEAVER'S LETTER

TO THE

Tradesmen and Manufacturers

OF

I R E L A N D.

----- *Scilicet ut Turno contingat Regia Conjux,
Nos viles animæ, inbumata infletaque turba
Sternamur Campis.*-----



D U B L I N :

Printed in the Year, MDCCCLIV.

RECEIVED LETTER

TO THE

Secretary and Manager



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T H E

WEAVER'S LETTER

T O T H E

Tradefmen, &c.

IT may perhaps be thought impertinent, in one of my Profession and Education, to publish his Thoughts about Affairs of State, and it would doubtless be so, if I presumed to tell my Fellow Subjects, whether this or that Step were right or wrong; this is not the Purpose of this Letter, nor do I pretend to any other Knowledge of our Constitution, than what at leisure Hours from my Business, I have collected from Abridgments of our *English* History, Pamphlets and Newspapers.

As my own and my Family's Bread depends upon the Sale of our Linens, and I am told and believe, much of the Trade of this Kingdom rests upon that Trade, and that Trade in general is discouraged by the Dissentions and Parties, that subsist at this Time; I think it is every Man's Duty to endeavour to heal those Breaches, especially of us Tradefmen and Dealers.

With this View I sit down to write this Letter, and I will tell you my Brethren, what were the Considerations, that inclined me to my present Way of thinking.

A Patriot properly so called (for there are many Pretenders to that Character) should be consistent in all his Actions, with Regard to the Publick. If the State be properly ruled, the Laws impartially executed, such a one will sit down contented, and enjoy the publick Blessings through whatever Channel they flow. Such a Person does perhaps, merit the Favour of a Governor, but if he be disappointed, he will not studiously perplex his Administration, while the Laws are not transgressed.

Now let us measure the present popular Patriots by those two Rules. It is confessed on all Sides, and owned by the Chief of those Patriots, that his original Dislike to the present Governor, the D----- of D-----, arose from his not being considered in the Disposal of lucrative Employments, equally with L-----d G----- and the P-----; and that there might be no Doubt about the Motive, it was avowed by L-----d K----- in the Face of the King, before the Session of Parliament began.

My Friends and Countrymen, while we enjoy the Fruits of our Labour and Industry, while our Liberty is uninvaded, and the Publick Exercise of our Religion unrestrained, what matters it to us, whether the P-----e, S-----r, or S-----y shall make a Colonel or a Collector.

That they have endeavoured to embarrass the Administration, where no Law is transgressed, will appear from this plain State of the present Dispute, which does not seem to be generally understood, especially by Persons of my own Degree, at a Distance from the chief City.

It seems there is at this Time, a large Sum of Money lying dead in the Treasury (who this Money

ney belongs to I do not know, nor is it my Purpose to enquire) now his Majesty, who certainly has the keeping of it, consented or desired in the Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty one, for I shall trace the Matter no higher, that Part of it should be applied by the Parliament here, to the paying the Debts of the Nation, and in Consequence thereof a Bill was framed and passed, without one negative Voice, with thankful Acknowledgment of his Majesty's Grace and Favour, in consenting to and recommending such an Application of the Money in the Treasury, in these Words,
 " And your Majesty ever attentive to the Ease and
 " Happiness of your faithful Subjects, has been graciously pleased to signify, that you would consent
 " and to recommend to us, that so much of the
 " Money remaining in your Majesty's Treasury as
 " should be necessary, be applied to the Discharge
 " of the National Debt, or of such Part thereof,
 " as should be thought expedient by Parliament ;"
 and so the Session of that Year ended.

What passed in the Interval between that Session and the present, can by such as I am, only be guessed at, except that in that Period of Time was framed and presented Lord K-----'s Memorial ; but this much is certain, that the Party of Patriots were displeased at the Continuance of the D---- of D---t, and determined to shew how far they could and would resent it ; although there appeared no Act of Power, that affected the Liberty or the Property of the meanest Subject.

In the Session begun, one thousand seven hundred and fifty three, the D---- of D-----t told the House of C-----s, that his Majesty consented to, and recommended a farther Application of the Money in the Treasury, to the Reduction of the National Debts ; here was an Opportunity presented of shewing

shewing his Majesty of how small Estimation, his Consent or Recommendation was, conveyed through that Channel. And accordingly by their Influence a Bill was framed for the Application of the Money, but without any Acknowledgment of the Consent or Recommendation of his Majesty.

This Bill was sent over to *England* so formed, (whither it seems all *Irish* Bills go) and was by a Power, which the People on that Side have always claimed and exerted, no otherwise altered than by the Addition of the Preamble, which we have mentioned to be in the Bill of the same Import, passed in the Session of one thousand seven hundred and fifty one.

The Bill thus altered, was returned to *Ireland*, and for that Reason only, rejected by the House of ~~C~~—, and by the Arts of some Men, the Rejecting it represented, as a Triumph over the Enemies of our civil and religious Liberty, and the Invaders of our Property, and the Spirit, shall I say, of Dis-affection, propagated among unthinking People, as if our all was at Stake.

If selfish Discontent and Disappointment of private Schemes is not at the Bottom of this Opposition, and the Parent of these popular Clamours; let the Leaders of the Party answer these plain Questions.

Why were not the Words, *Consent*, and *Recommendation*, of as unpopular Sound in the Bill of One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty One, as in that of One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Three; have they contracted any new Malignity within these two Years past?

Are

Are Pensions paid out of the Treasury, without parliamentary Consent, legal Applications of the publick Money ?

Has ever the Chief of those Patriots solicited and obtained any Application of Part of it, without Consent of Parliament, for himself or his Friends ?

Has his Candour in the Management of the publick Voice, been always so glaring, as to admit no Suspicion of his Integrity ?

If these Questions were honestly answered, the Bottom of the Sore would soon appear.

We have now, my Friends and Country-men, almost for twenty-seven Years, enjoyed the Protection and Favour of the Best of Kings, who not to mention the Encouragement given to the Linen Trade, which affects Tradesmen and Manufacturers of all Sorts in this Kingdom, has some Years ago given us a solid Proof of his fatherly Regard ; what I mean is the Encouragement given to the *Dublin* Society, whose known Scheme at its first Establishment was to raise and propagate those Goods and Manufactures here, which before, we were obliged to purchase with our ready Money from his *English* Subjects, which so far was a Diminution of their Trade, in our Favour.

There is a Person at *Chester*, who has for more than twenty Years bought all my Linens, and has convinced me by his regular uniform Manner of answering all my Drafts, that he is an honest substantial Dealer ; if one of my Journeymen, should whisper to me, that he suspected he was unsound at the Bottom, and would probably some Years hence
break

break with a full Hand, I should be apt to think there was some Malice in the Case, when I had heard, that he asked, and was denied his Christmas Box.

In short there is no surer Way of ruining Tradesmen and Manufacturers, than by turning Politicians : Let the great Folks rail at Taverns, and drink Confusion to one another, they have Money enough, and have nothing else to do : But for us, who have no Pretensions to Place or Pensions, to run mad after Politicks, and talk of Prerogative and I don't know what, is perfect Infatuation.

I do not mean, that People of my own Condition, or even those in a lower Way, should sit with their Hands in their Pockets, and see their Liberty or Country totter ; what I would desire is, that, while our Laws, our Properties, and our Liberties are unviolated, we should bless the Instrument, that preserves them so, and not like Children quarrel with good substantial Bread and Butter, because it has not Glass Windows.

I shall trouble you now but with one Consideration more ; if this Money, about which all this scandalous Bitterness of Speech is used, were to be applied to Purposes destructive, or even indifferent to us, something might be said, but the Opposition raised to the Application of it, so graciously intended for the Payment of the Debts, and consequently Relief of the Nation, must proceed from some other Motive than the Love of Peace, and of the publick Good : For to distress a Government, that transgresses not the Bounds of Law, is FACTION not PATRIOTISM.

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